

REMARKS

This paper responds to the Office Action mailed on November 27, 2006.

Claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 15, 18, 22, and 25 are amended, claims 23 and 24 are canceled without disclaimer or prejudice; as a result, claims 1-22, and 25-27 are now pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-5, 18-21, and 26-27 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takii.

Applicant respectfully traverses.

Applicant believes that independent claims 1, 5, 10, and 18, as amended, include the things at least similar to those of the allowable claim 25. Thus, Applicant believes that claims 1, 5, 10, and 18 are not anticipated by Takii. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claims 1, 5, 10, and 18 and their dependent claims.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 6-8 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takii in view of Janus et al. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takii in view of Oh. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takii in view of Schoenborn. Claims 11-14 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takii in view of Janus et al. Claims 15-17 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takii in view of Oh. Claim 22 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takii in view of Oh. Claims 23-24 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takii in view of Oh.

Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claims 6-9 dependent from independent claim 5. Thus, for at least the reasons presented above regarding claims 5 and 18, Applicant believes that claims 6-9 are also patentable over the cited art. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claims 6-9.

Regarding claim 10, Applicant believes that claim 10, as amended, includes the things at least similar to those of the allowable claim 25. Thus, Applicant believes that claim 10 is also patentable over the cited art. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 10 and its dependent claim 11-17.

Claim 22 depends from independent 18. Thus, for at least the reasons presented above regarding claim 18, Applicant believes that claim 22 is also patentable over the cited art. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 22.

As stated above, claims 23 and 24 are canceled without disclaimer or prejudice. Thus, the rejection of claims 23 and 24 is now moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 25 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 25 is rewritten in independent form. The rewriting does not alter the scope of claim 25. Thus, claim 25 is now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6969 to facilitate prosecution of this application.


If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

PAUL A. JOLLY ET AL.

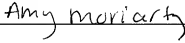
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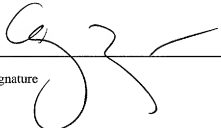
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By 
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